IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (original) A system for controlling access to a resource of a computer system, comprising:

a database of problems and corresponding precalculated solutions;

a problem retriever that responds to a request from a client for access to said resource by retrieving one of said problems from said database and transmitting said one of said problems to said client; and

a solution evaluator that, upon receiving a putative solution from said client, employs said database to validate said putative solution and, if said putative solution is valid, grants said client access to said resource.

2.   (original) The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said problems comprise outputs and portions of corresponding inputs to a one-way function.

3.   (original) The system as recited in Claim 2 wherein said one-way function is a Message Digest-5 function.

4.   (original) The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said problem retriever replaces said one of said problems and a corresponding one of said solutions when said putative solution is valid.

5.   (original) The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said problem retriever replaces said one of said problems and a corresponding one of said solutions only when said putative solution is valid.

6.   (original) The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said solution evaluator grants

said client access to said resource by allocating memory associated with said resource to serve said

client.

7.   (original) The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said resource is selected from

the group consisting of:

a network server,

an electronic mail server, and

a main database.

8.   (original) A method of controlling access to a resource of a computer system,

comprising:

creating a database of problems and corresponding precalculated solutions;

responding to a request from a client for access to said resource by retrieving one of said

problems from said database and transmitting said one of said problems to said client;

upon receiving a putative solution from said client, employing said database to validate

said putative solution; and

if said putative solution is valid, granting said client access to said resource.

9.   (original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said problems comprise

outputs and portions of corresponding inputs to a one-way function.

10.   (original) The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said one-way function is a

Message Digest-5 function.

11.   (original) The method as recited in Claim 8 further comprising replacing said one

of said problems and a corresponding one of said solutions when said putative solution is valid.

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12.   (original) The method as recited in Claim 8 further comprising replacing said one of said problems and a corresponding one of said solutions only when said putative solution is valid.

13.   (original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said granting comprises allocating memory associated with said resource to serve said client.

14.   (original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said resource is selected from the group consisting of:

a network server,

an electronic mail server, and

a main database.

Claims 15-21 (canceled)